182 ALICE'S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND

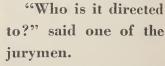
your Majesty," said the White Rabbit, jumping up in a great hurry: "this paper has just been picked up."

"What's in it?" said the Queen.

"I haven't opened it yet," said the White Rabbit; "but it seems to be a letter, written by the prisoner to—to somebody."

"It must have been that," said the King, "unless it was written to nobody, which isn't usual,





"It isn't directed at all," said the White Rabbit: "in fact, there's nothing written on the *outside*." He unfolded the paper as

he spoke, and added: "It isn't a letter, after all: it's a set of verses."

"Are they in the prisoner's handwriting?" asked another of the jurymen.

"No, they're not," said the White Rabbit, "and that's the queerest thing about it." (The jury all looked puzzled.)

ALICE'S EV

"He must have imitated said the King. (The jury al

"Please your Majesty," didn't write it, and they ca there's no name signed at t

"If you didn't sign it," sa makes the matter worse. some mischief, or else yo name like an honest man.'

There was a general clap it was the first really cleve said that day.

"That proves his guilt,
Queen: "so, off with——"

"It doesn't prove anythmake. "Why, you don't evaluate."

"Read them," said the K
The White Rabbit put on shall I begin, please your M

"Begin at the beginning gravely, "and go on till you stop."

There was dead silence is White Rabbit read out thes